

# Did you know...?

## Aluminum facts:

- 1) Recycling just one aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television for three hours.
- 2) 100% of beverage cans are made from aluminum. The aluminum can made its first appearance in the United States in 1953. Prior to this, most cans were made from tin or steel. Steel cans were first used in the 1800's.
- 3) On average, each person will use about 390 cans per year.
- 4) Aluminum cans typically have a recycled aluminum content of about 55 percent. 63.5 percent of aluminum cans are recycled annually. The number of cans recycled is 62.8 billion.
- 5) Recycling aluminum saves about 95 percent of the energy it would take to produce aluminum from its original source, bauxite.
- 6) The aluminum recycling process is so efficient that it can take as few as 60 days for a can to be collected, melted down, and made into a new can sitting on a grocery store shelf.
- 7) Anything that is made from aluminum can be made from recycled aluminum.

\*Source: <http://morethanswitchingoffthelights.blogspot.com/>

## Computer and monitor facts:

- 1) Turning off your computer at night and on weekends, as well as utilizing the "standby" mode during lunch and breaks can reduce your carbon footprint by 1,516 pounds per year.
- 2) A typical desktop PC and monitor uses 100 to 400 watts while turned on. Even if it is sitting there doing nothing, the consumption can be considerable.
- 3) Half of US employees who use a PC at work typically don't shut their computers down at the end of a work day.
- 4) Computers are constant power drains, equivalent to leaving on a half dozen light bulbs. The simple act of ensuring that your computers and peripherals are turned off when you leave the office will save up to 2/3 of the energy used in a day.
- 5) One common myth is that screen savers save energy. Screen Savers, even the ones that show a blank screen, use as much and in some cases, more energy.
- 6) The 2009 PC Energy Report estimates the cost of leaving computers on overnight at a staggering \$2.8 billion a year, and that's in the U.S. alone.
- 7) The 2009 PC Energy Report also states that "if all of the world's 1 billion PCs were powered down for just one night, it would save enough energy to light up New York City's Empire State Building – inside and out – for more than 30 years."

\*Source: 2009 PC Energy Report and <http://www.etccreations.com/energytips>

### a. Tips to offset these facts:

- Turn off the monitor after 10 minutes of inactivity.

- Have the computer go into "standby mode" after 15 minutes of inactivity.
- Have the computer "hibernate" after 25 minutes of inactivity.
- Turn off the computer, monitor and peripherals when you leave the office or know you won't be using them for more than an hour.

Lighting facts:

- 1) Turning off the lights in one office for one hour can keep up to two pounds of pollutants out of the environment.
- 2) Lights consume about 20% to 25% of all the energy used in the United States.
- 3) Americans buy over a billion incandescent light bulbs every year. That's equal to 3 acres of bulbs a day.
- 4) Compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs) last 10 times longer than a conventional bulb and uses less than ¼ of the energy.
- 5) If a 100-watt bulb is on for half a day, every day, for a year it can use enough electricity to burn almost 400 pounds of coal.
- 6) If everyone in the United States changed out just one light to one that is a CFL we would save enough energy to light 7 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 1 million cars.

\*Sources: National Energy Foundation and  
<http://morethanswitchingoffthelights.blogspot.com/>

a. Tips to offset these facts:

- Take advantage of natural light, and if you need localized light for work, use task lighting.
- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).
- Turn OFF lights when they are not in use, even when leaving your office for a few minutes.

\*Other than these, the NM Recycling Coalition has some great facts that are on a loop at the bottom left of the screen: <http://www.nmrecycle.org/>